



# OLD FORT ERIE

CONSTRUCTED 1803-1813

RESTORED 1939

*by the*

Niagara Parks Commission



OPENING CEREMONY

DOMINION DAY

1939



PERSONNEL  
Niagara Parks Commission

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*General Manager*

"The Romance of the  
Old Fort"

*A Mallabar-Turner Production*

A dramatization of historic events  
of the Niagara Frontier  
associated with Old Fort Erie

*Presented at*

*Fort Erie, on Saturday,  
July 1, Monday, July 3  
and Tuesday, July 4*

9:00 o'clock

*by the*

NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

*Pageant Master — MELBURN E. TURNER  
Assistant Director — HARRY FLOWERS*

CAST & SCENES - INSIDE



## PROGRAMME

Entire scenario written and production staged by Melburn E. Turner

### PROLOGUE

The Queen of the Pageant enters, followed by her Court of Princesses.

Miss Canada, supported by her nine provinces, arrives at the Pageant.

Miss Columbia and her attendants, the American Legionnaires, and Uncle Sam pay their official visit to the Pageant.

Britannia, the Gem of the Ocean, also comes to join the honored guests and adds her address of welcome.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Queen of the Pageant: Miss Alice Biggins — Train-Bearers: Shirley Taylor, Beverley Taylor, Althea Pomeroy — Princesses: Winnifred Burt, Elizabeth Kee, Kathleen Brady, Helen Wiswell — Miss Canada: Catherine Williams — Provinces: Mary Scholfield, Laverne Astles, Anita Quesada, Evelyn Laur, Maebelle Sampson, Mrs. H. Whybra, Mrs. Alva Murdock, Mrs. Dorothy Beber, Mrs. D. Cronshaw — Britannia: Mrs. S. Rapelje — Miss Columbia: Miss Claire Hochgrebe — Attendants for Miss Columbia: Minute Men of American Legion, Troop I, under command of Captain Bud Sullivan — Uncle Sam: J. Findlay Rapelje — Pages: Jack Chisholm, Louis McDermott.

### EPISODE ONE

*"I came, I know not whence, I go, I know not whither—  
of things created never upon my coming looked,  
nor shall it see my passing. First and last of all  
things,*

*For I am Time."*

### THE BALLET OF CREATION

This ballet symbolizes the creation of the Universe—the birth of land, sky and water, and shows the Spirit of the Universe as she brings order out of chaos.

Spirit of the Universe: Joan Ward — Spirits of Land, Sky and Water (pupils of Miss Joan Ward): Bernice Davey, Betty Ward, Marion Rodgers, Elsie English, Judy Cross, Mary Flynn, Stella Flynn, Jenny Gullion, Marjorie Hanna, Mary Munce, Margaret Ewald, Lois Lillico, Josephine Worrall, Betty Speck, Margaret Vanstone, Betty Sorley, Lavinia Sawdon, Colleen Reynolds, Bonnie Speck.

### EPISODE TWO

#### Scene I — THE EARLY INDIAN POW-WOW

A native of the wilds, a product of primeval conditions, the Indian believed in the right of liberty to roam at will over his wide realm of wilderness and water. An Indian tribe is seen to arrive at a new camp site, where a pow-wow is held, while a few squaws set up camp and carry on their domestic duties.

#### Scene II — ETIENNE BRULE BEGS FOOD OF THE INDIANS

A young French pioneer, Etienne Brule, was the first white man to visit the Niagara district. Starving and lost, he begs shelter of the Indians and, owing to a charm he wears about his neck, is granted freedom from torture and is allowed to smoke the pipe of peace with the tribe.

#### Scene III — FATHERS BREBEUF AND CHAUMINOT

Early priests in the district were branded as magicians, capable of all manner of evil and so, when Brebeuf and Chauminot came to the Indians in Niagara in 1640, their overtures fell on deaf ears.

#### Scene IV — BREBEUF'S VISION

For three months, cold and hungry, the two priests wandered in the district and then, worn out, the two found brief shelter. Chauminot took recourse in a long sleep — Brebeuf communed with God. Suddenly, the vision of a gigantic cross lit the sky and Brebeuf felt his prayers were answered. He saw in the vision

a martyr's crown for himself and a true vision it proved to be for eight years later he met his death at the stake at St. Ignace.

#### Scene V — LA SALLE AND LA MOTTE

On friendly terms with the Indians, La Salle and La Motte, intrepid travellers and explorers in the new country, pay a visit to the Indian camp. They witness a characteristic war dance of the braves.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Indian Chief: Frank Williams — Warriors: Jim Kapelje, Bob Day, Douglas Grant, Hugh Barton, George Stratton, Bill Breckon, Tom Thyret, Jack Ferguson — Squaws: Mrs. A. R. McGlashan, Mrs. J. Ferguson — Indian Children: Lowell Butters, Corinne Davis, Holly Yeo — La Salle: Dave Coupar — La Motte: Bill Zoia — Father Brebeuf: Archie Baird — Father Chauminot: Edward Kingsley — Etienne Brule: Jack Daly.

### EPISODE THREE

#### BRADSTREET BUILDS FORT ERIE

One of Col. John Bradstreet's first duties in the district was to select a suitable site for the building of a military post near an anchorage so that ships could be built to transport the men who were to attack and relieve Fort Detroit, which was closely beset by a powerful confederacy of Indians. After rejecting a site near the mouth of Buffalo Creek, Captain John Montresor, entrusted with the task of doing the actual work, selected Fort Erie.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

General Bradstreet: Frank Habgood — Capt. Montresor: Bert Jepson — Soldiers of 1764: J. Nunn, Bert Styles, Harry Berry — Workmen: Ted Lewis, Bill Barrett — Indians: From previous scene.

### EPISODE FOUR

#### PONTIAC AND INDIANS VISIT THE FORT

On his way to a council meeting at Oswego, Pontiac and some of his followers stopped at Fort Erie and were well received. Shortly after his arrival, however, shots were fired outside the fort at a flock of pigeons. Pontiac suspected treachery but was divested of the idea by the officers in charge.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Chief Pontiac: Dr. S. L. Oliver — Gen. Bradstreet: Frank Habgood — Capt. Montresor: Bert Jepson — Indians: From previous scene.

### EPISODE FIVE

#### AN EARLY CHURCH SERVICE

The early residents of the district had little opportunity for religious instruction until the Methodist circuit rider began his rounds. Visiting the various communities in his charge the itinerant preacher would very often hold religious services in the open air, lead his small congregations in the old hymns and preach to them.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Circuit Rider Preacher: Dr. A. L. Hays — Churchgoers: Esther Berry, Violet Hutton, Edna Mehlenbacher, Marjorie Ogilvie, Mrs. J. K. Irwin, Mrs. Bert Gillies, James Hays, G. Cody, J. K. Irwin, D. Coupar, Esther I. Berry, Tom Pattinson, Tom Farrell, Holly Yeo, Margaret Garan, Tom Thyret, Jack Chisholm, Lowell Butters, Louis McDermott, Corinne Davis.

### EPISODE SIX

#### THE PIONEERS

This scene is a symbolic representation of the trials which faced the early settlers in the district, showing how they conquered the powers of the forest, and the water. It reveals the onslaught of fever, famine and death, each being personified by living actors. Throughout the scene, young ballet dancers will interpret the activity of nature in the form of ballet.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Pioneer Man: Jack Daly — Pioneer Woman: Mrs. A. J. Huttel-meyer — Spirit of the Wilderness: Joan Ward — Fever: Mildred Sulman — Famine: Marie Petrullo — Death: Cecil Collett — Powers of the Forest: Jenny Grellion, Lois Lillico, Laura Burton, Bernice Davey,

Marjorie Hanna, Betty Ward — Powers of the River: Elsie English, Judy Cross, Margaret Ewald, Mary Munce, Margaret Vanstone, Christine Kempt — Mist Maidens: Marion Rodgers, Lavinia Sawdon, Mary Flynn, Stella Flynn, Colleen Reynolds, Freda Sawdon.

### EPISODE SEVEN

#### EARLY SCHOOL DAYS

The first record of organized academic tuition reveals that schools were operated by private individuals who held classes at their homes. Then followed the days of the "little red school house" or the "grammar schools," as they were called. In these places were educated those men and women who later led their country to economic and military independence.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Schoolmaster: Howard Thompson — Pupils: Ruth Hooper, Tom Pattinson, Tom Thyret, Jack Chisholm, Margaret Garan, Jean Irwin, Margaret Bearss, Louis McDermott, Beatrice Hale, Patricia Raymond, Corinne Davis, Charles Prior, Holly Yeo, Lowell Butters, Helen O'Hara, Edward Martin.

### EPISODE EIGHT

#### WAR IS DECLARED — 1812

In 1812 war was declared between Canada and the United States, as the eyes of the country to the south were turned on Canada as an easy possession to be added to the fast-growing Union. In market places throughout the Dominion was read the declaration before the gathering populace.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

British Officer: J. K. Irwin — British Soldiers: Ted Lewis, Bill Barrett, Jack Nunn, H. Greenough, Bert Styles — Townspeople: Esther I. Berry, Violet Hutton, Mrs. E. Lewis, Mrs. S. E. Rose, Mrs. Esther Berry, Mrs. M. Bambridge, Mrs. Marjorie Ogilvie, Mrs. Vera Newton, A. E. Jepson, J. M. Daly, Earle Howard, Dave Coupar, Ray Johnson, F. W. Dunn.

### EPISODE NINE

#### THE SURRENDER OF FORT ERIE TO THE AMERICANS

On July 3rd, 1814, Fort Erie was invested by an American force of more than forty-five hundred men under Major-General Jacob Brown. In spite of measures adopted to make the fort capable of some defense, effective resistance by the small garrison of one hundred and seventy men was out of the question, and Major Buck, the British commander, surrendered.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Major Buck: Stan Raymond — British Garrison: Andy Ross, J. Nunn, Bert Styles, Harry Berry, Kemp Irwin, Ted Lewis, Bill Barrett, Harry Greenough, A. Caulturst, P. Violino, A. Kunder, J. Millar, J. Carmichael, E. Troup, Hugh Raymond, Arthur Plato, Joe DiCrescenzo, G. Damias, Louis, J. C. Bruce — American Soldiers: Capt. K. Clarke, L. Johnson, F. Metcalfe, H. Dick, D. Hackett, L. Hyslop, D. Brown, G. Scott, H. Brails, J. Barker, B. Poe, W. Macnee, W. Coffey, O. Johnson, S. Clow, D. Emberley, A. Gunn, A. Eves (Garrison Guard at Fort Henry, Kingston, Ontario.)

### EPISODE TEN

#### THE BRITISH ASSAULT FORT ERIE — AUGUST 15, 1814

In the early morning of August 15, 1814, three British columns assaulted Fort Erie, two of which failed to secure a foothold. The third, under Colonel Drummond, a nephew of General Drummond, was more fortunate. As day was about to dawn, Drummond led his force of about 700 men against the north-east demi-bastion with almost irresistible impetuosity. Rearing scaling ladders against the escarp, they swarmed over the parapets in a mad rush, bayoneted the American defenders and turned the guns of the bastion against the fort. Suddenly a tremendous explosion occurred in the powder magazine under the bastion which blew men and guns to a height of from one to 200 feet in the air. Remnants of the attackers, hurled from the parapets of the bastion where the explosion occurred, retired to the British lines as

best they could, whence Drummond hastily threw out the King's Royal Regiment to cover their retreat.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

British Soldiers and Sailors — Same as in previous scene — American Garrison: Same as in previous scene — Indians: Same as in previous scene.

### EPISODE ELEVEN

#### THE VISIT OF LORD AND LADY DUFFERIN

In 1874 Niagara was honored by an official visit of Lord Dufferin, the governor-general, and Lady Dufferin. A great welcome was given the vice-regal party and a grand levee was arranged. As entertainment, the Minuet was danced for the honored guests.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Lord Dufferin: Don Muir — Lady Dufferin: Jean Anderson — Aides to Dufferin: Ray Johnson, Dr. S. L. Oliver — Minuet Dancers: Bonnie Speck, Margaret Ewald, Josephine Worrall, Mary Marcolin, Florence Manuel, Betty Harris, Lavinia Sawdon, Betty Speck, Mary Munce, Mary Gregus, Marjorie Hanna, Evelyn Mann, Bernice Davey, Elsie English.

### EPISODE TWELVE

#### THE GAY NINETIES

Throughout North America, and particularly in the cities, the period between 1890 and 1900 came to be known as the Gay Nineties. During this period forms of amusement were many and fun was frequent. The period also featured the strong inclination to dress in the height of fashion.

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Policeman: Frank Habgood — Baseball Team: Pete Driscoll (umpire), Ray Zimmerman, Bob Babcock, Jim Barrett, William Watts, Dick House, Butch Ferdinand, Lionel Griffin — Men and Women: Florence Zimmerman, Dorothy Lyon, Josephine Gallernon, Carol Hebbourne, Norma Dillane, Otto Mehlenbacher, Orville Cudney, Robert Ward, Elmer Zimmerman, Russell Graham, George Hudd, Bill Zoia, D. Coupar, Mrs. A. R. McGlashan, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. J. Daly, Mrs. A. Jepson, Mrs. Lewis, Beatrice Hyde, Elise Brown, Peggy Agnew, Charles Prior.

### EPISODE THIRTEEN

#### THE GREAT WAR — 1914-1918

Following the death of Edward the Seventh, called the Peacemaker, the underlying discontent rapidly took on more serious proportions and in 1914 it reached its zenith. The manhood and womanhood of nation after nation became embroiled in the holocaust that was to follow. The sword of "Mars" was suddenly dragged from its sheath as a result of the assassination of the Austrian prince and the world was plunged into the worst war that history has ever known.

#### Scene I — THE CALL TO ARMS

#### Scene II — THE MARCH TO THE FRONT

#### Scene III — THE BATTLE

#### Scene IV — PEACE

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Britannia: Mrs. S. Rapelje — Peace: Mary Lee — Lumberjack: John Carmichael — Fireman: Bert Styles — Policeman: Alf Kunder — Nurse: Mrs. M. Bambridge — Farmer: J. Millar — Mechanic: Edward Lewis — John Bull: Ed Seaton — Jack Canuck: Byron Wilson — Soldiers of 1914: Members of Lincoln and Welland Regiment, "C" Company under the command of Major C. A. Muir.

### EPISODE FOURTEEN

#### Grand Finale — THE WHEEL OF PROGRESS

#### "GOD SAVE THE KING"

### PRODUCTION STAFF

General Chairman — Mayor George Bown  
Assistant Director — Harry Flowers  
Historical Supervisor — Ronald L. Way  
Assistant Historian — Miss Margaret Way  
Talent Chairman — A. E. Seaton  
Properties — George Bown and George Broadley  
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